

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18716

At a time when financial markets are risk-averse and utilities are embarking on major transmission and generation projects to serve growing loads, this legislation helps provide the stability necessary to attract investors at a more reasonable cost-of-capital.

This bill establishes an additional process for consideration of utility capital expenditures by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. It expands the Commission's ability to shape the resources in a utility's portfolio before construction of or commitment to such a resource. It also provides additional surety to capital markets that utility expenditures are prudent and pose less risk of financial loss. When this voluntary process is used, it will benefit utility customers through lower financing costs and create a more transparent system of resource selection.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact to the General Fund.

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